

September 30, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Irene Flannery  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2120 L Street, NW – Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20037

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45  
State Certification of USF funds in rural areas

Dear Mses. Dortch and Flannery:

This letter is submitted pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314(a), which requires annual state certification of use of federal universal service funds as a prerequisite for continued receipt of funding by rural carriers. The Regulatory Commission of Alaska governs local services and rates in Alaska and is the appropriate authority to issue certification under Section 54.314(a).

We declare that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, all federal high cost support received in 2003 by economically regulated rural eligible telecommunications carriers in Alaska (see attached list) will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Communications Act.

We economically regulate Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC) but only for its Barrow exchange. All other ASTAC exchanges, Circle Telephone, Cordova Telephone and Ketchikan Public Utilities are not economically regulated by our agency. Our certification does not cover non-regulated service areas

and each non-regulated carrier is responsible for self-certifying its compliance with 47 C.F.R. 54.314(b).

We have pending a number of local carrier revenue requirement and cost of service study proceedings. Additional studies are scheduled for filing in subsequent years. Our certification does not preclude us from reviewing in further detail how any carrier has employed its federal universal service funds and ordering that use of funds comply with directives or policies we may set. Our certification is based on best data available as of September, 2002. Our decision does not bind us in future or pending cases and we reserve the right to conclude that a company should employ its universal service funding differently than it does today or in the future if we receive better data or conduct a more detailed review.

Sincerely,  
REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

/S/  
Commissioner G. Nanette Thompson  
Chair

### Rural Eligible Telecommunications Carriers in Alaska:

NECA Code <sup>1</sup>	Carrier
613012, 613022	ACS of Alaska, Inc.
613008	ACS of Fairbanks, Inc.
613010, 613020	ACS of the Northland, Inc.
613017, 613009	Alaska Telephone Company.
613001, 613009	Arctic Slope Telephone Assoc. Coop. Inc. <sup>2</sup>
613002	Bettles Telephone, Inc.
613003	Bristol Bay Telephone Coop. Inc.
613004	Bush-Tell, Inc.
613006	Copper Valley Telephone Coop., Inc.
N/A	GCI Communications Corp.
613011, 613009	Interior Telephone Co.
613015	Matanuska Telephone Assoc., Inc.
613016, 613009	Mukluk Telephone Co.
613026	North Country Telephone, Inc.
613018	Nushagak Electric and Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
613019	OTZ Telephone Coop., Inc.
613028	Summit Telephone Co.
613023	United Utilities, Inc.
613023, 613009	United-KUC, Inc.
613025	Yukon Telephone Co.

<sup>1</sup> Each local carrier has ETC status in all study areas that it serves. The study area codes are provided as a convenience. While the listed codes are intended to encompass all served areas, not all codes were available at the time this certification was provided. For example, code 613009 refers to previous exchanges owned by GTE Alaska, Inc. / ATEAC that were divided up and transferred to several different entities.

<sup>2</sup> The Regulatory Commission of Alaska only economically regulates ASTAC for its Barrow exchange. ASTAC, as a non-regulated carrier for the majority of its operations, has separately filed a letter with the FCC indicating its intent to use federal high cost funds only for their intended purposes.